

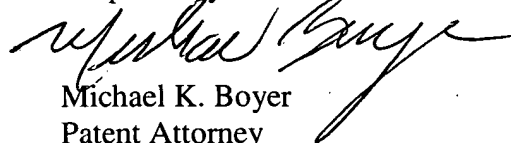
REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 15-24, 37-45, 47 and 48 are pending in the instant application and stand finally rejected. New Claims 49-51 are submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in light of the following Remarks, attached Declaration and RCE Transmittal.

The rejection of Claims 1, 8-11, 15-24, 25 and 33-47 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sudan article in view of Rodriguez (U.S.P.N. 6,159,538), is respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully submit that the Sudan article is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) since the article did not published more than one year prior to the filing date of the instant application (i.e., the instant application was filed on December 01, 2003 and the Office indicates that Sudan was published on September 03, 2003). In order to remove the Sudan article as a reference that can applied against the instant claims, please find attached hereto a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131. Applicants respectfully submit that Sudan is not prior art to the instant application and request withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicants believe that the pending claims define patentable subject matter and request issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Please find attached hereto a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time. Please also find attached hereto an RCE Transmittal. Should there be any other fee due in connection with this Application, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 01-0493 (Air Products). Should the Examiner deem that any action on the part of Applicants would advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Encl.: One Month Extension of Time
Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131
RCE Transmittal